

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Dry conditions were eased somewhat this week with thundershowers in south central and southeast Oregon. Elsewhere, conditions remained hot and dry, forcing irrigation to continue. Drought conditions across the State this summer have ranged from moderate to extreme, with the Wallowa County Court to begin a disaster declaration process. Morrow County reported an almost total absence of deep soil profile moisture, resulting from several years of drought. Malheur County recorded eight consecutive days of temperatures in excess of 100 degrees, broken by thunderstorms and severe wind. Precipitation in Lakeview reached 0.85 inches for the week, well above normal. Joseph recorded 169 growing degree days, which was 92 days above normal.

Field Crops: Haying continued State wide; most areas were winding down the second cutting. In Baker County, grain had turned and was ripening. Corn was just beginning to tassel. In Malheur County, record high temperatures were taking a toll on the quality and yield of all crops. Heavy rains and hail in some parts of the County caused severe damage to onions, wheat and corn. In the Mid-Columbia basin, the wheat harvest was well underway with good harvesting weather. The ongoing drought as well as the hot weather has caused below average yields for the dryland crop. There has been no measurable precipitation the past three months. In the Willamette Valley, the winter wheat harvest was underway. Grass seed combining was ongoing along with the baling of the grass seed straw. In Marion County, the white clover seed harvest was starting. Red clover seed fields were coming into bloom.

Vegetables: Vegetable crops were being harvested. Tomatoes starting to ripen. Some early tomatoes arrived at the markets. Early sweet corn was showing in markets and roadside stands. Heavy rainfall in some parts of Malheur County on Saturday along with hail from the Vale area on down the Malheur River to Ontario caused severe damage to onions.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries and greenhouses were feeding, watering, weeding and preparing for fall plantings.

Fruit: Berry harvest continued in the Willamette Valley. Marionberry picking was nearing completion. Apples and pears were sizing fast. Wasco County cherry harvest was nearly complete with some late varieties being harvested in the upper elevations. Apricots and peaches were picked. Jackson County peaches and berries were available at local farmers markets and roadside stands.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pastureland showed signs of stress and the threat of fire remains high in many areas. Producers were busy hauling stock water in response to the prolonged dry conditions. Cattle continued to be moved from lower elevation rangeland. In Clackamas County, some producers were forced to begin supplemental feeding. Livestock reported to be in good to excellent condition if they were on higher ranges or if they were on irrigated land.

Crop Progress Week Ending 7/27/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley harvested (%)	32	—	34	22
Spring wheat harvested (%)	35	—	—	—
Winter wheat harvested (%)	50	35	48	31
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.7	6.9	—	—

Soil Moisture Week Ending 7/27/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	31	46	18	5
Subsoil (%)	38	44	18	—

Crop Condition Week Ending 7/27/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Barley (%)	4	10	43	34	9
Range & Pasture (%)	9	15	45	28	3

CLACKAMAS: Winter wheat harvest underway. Grass seed combining well advanced. Marionberry picking near end. Evergreen blackberries ripening fast. Hazelnuts at shell hardening on a crop larger than a year ago. Apples sizing fast, as are pears. Nurseries are trying to keep up on irrigation. Dryland pastures are definitely showing stress, with some beginning summer dormancy. Most livestock are still in good condition, but some supplemental feeding is needed.

COOS\CURRY: Dry weather continued with cool winds in some areas from July 11 through July 24. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 58.2 to 60.0 degrees F; highs ranged from 67.9 to 78.7 degrees F, and lows ranged from 50.2 to 51.9 degrees F. Precipitation ranged from 0.00" at Bandon to 0.01" at Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 degrees F) ranged from 69 GDD at Brookings-Harbor to 70 GDD at Bandon.

JACKSON: Very hot, dry weather is limiting growth on dryland but is good for hay and grain harvest. Orchards being irrigated; fruit growing well. Second cutting of alfalfa in fair condition. Straw from grain harvest was being baled. Peach harvest underway with fresh peaches at farmers markets and roadside stands. Blueberries being picked; some places have U-Pick signs. Caneberry harvest is also underway and wild blackberries are ripening. Apples and pears showed good growth. Hot, dry weather caused lots of irrigation. Vineyards looked good. Early sweet corn is showing in markets and roadside stands. Tomatoes starting to ripen. Nurseries and greenhouses busy with feeding, watering and weeding and getting ready for fall plantings. Cattle on higher ranges or on irrigated land look good to excellent. Daytime temperatures are near 100 degrees with nights in the mid sixties. Lots of irrigation being done to keep crops growing and cattle fed.

LANE: It seems all crops are lighter than average, ranging from 15-50 percent.

LINN: Conditions remain very hot and dry; crop yields remain low.

MARION: Grass seed harvest continued, along with baling and storing of the grass seed straw. White clover seed harvest also getting started. Wheat harvest about to begin in earnest but much of it will wait until after seed harvest is completed. Red clover seed fields are coming into bloom; sugar beet, mint and hop harvest still a ways off. Heat is effecting the quality of blueberries.

WASHINGTON: Blueberry picking for canneries well underway. Blackberry harvest continued. Irrigating alfalfa for third cutting. Most grass for seed harvested, baled and removed from fields. Field corn shoulder high. Sweet corn tasseling well. Vegetable crops being harvested with early tomatoes arriving at markets. New hatch of quail at feeders. County fair finished Sunday. High temperatures 92 degrees, low 50 degrees.

YAMHILL: Walnut husk fly emergence is occurring. Peach harvest continued.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Very hot and dry. Hard to keep up with irrigation. Haying continued. Grain turned and ripening. Corn just beginning to tassel. Dryland grass yields are down. Stock water drying up. Ranges dry. Cattle being moved off lower ranges. River levels are at late August lows already.

CROOK AND JEFFERSON: Irrigation running at high levels as temperatures in the mid-nineties are taking their toll. Many grass seed fields harvested and residue hay baled and stacked. Mint fields looked excellent. Wheat in various stages of ripening but some just waiting completion of grass seed harvest and then the wheat will be cut. Alfalfa hay ready for next cutting. Potato fields rows in Jefferson County well filled in.

HARNEY: Wide spread thunderstorms late in the week were a welcome relief from record heat earlier. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) for rangelands was raised to a level four with a red flag alert in effect. No major fires reported to date. Grasshoppers continued to be a concern in some areas.

LAKE: Thunder, lightening and rain storms struck the Valley this week. Second cutting of alfalfa underway.

MALHEUR: Record of eight consecutive days of temperatures over 100 degrees was broken by severe wind and thunder showers. All seasonal farming activities continued with emphasis on irrigation. The record high temperatures will likely take a toll on quality and yield of all crops. Temperatures returned to normal for right now. Hot weather during the middle of the week. Heavy rainfall in some parts of the Valley on Saturday, along with hail from the Vale area on down the Malheur River to Ontario, caused severe damage to onion, wheat, and corn. Harvest of alfalfa hay has also been delayed because of the rain.

MORROW: The drought is ongoing, despite near-normal rainfall from September to April. Total rainfall during these months averaged 8.55 inches (average of five sites scattered throughout Morrow County's farming region). Precipitation during May, June and July has not occurred to any measurable extent. The lack of precipitation during recent months, along with the almost total absence of deep soil profile moisture, translates to a below average year for dryland crop yields. The "deep moisture" situation can be attributed to insufficient or ineffective precipitation during the previous four years. Analysis of soil samples collected on July 11 revealed a total profile moisture content of about 8.3 inches. This is 57 percent of the soil's water holding capacity. Wheat yields ranging from 5 to 27 bushels per acre so far. Realistic average for this years crop is estimated to be 15 bushels per acre. Test weights are very low.

SHERMAN: Wheat harvest well underway with good harvesting weather available. Early yield reports are average for deep soils and low average (or worse) for shallow soils or drier areas (i.e. Starvation Point, an aptly named region). Quality is a problem. The untimely hot weather in May and early June not only reduced yields 5-6 bushels per acre, but shrunk a lot of kernels. "Rice" is word frequently heard when describing the kernels. Test weights reflecting the smaller size. Some rod weeding in fallow fields with triple digit temperatures this week increased the weed kill efficiency. Cattlemen are hauling water to stock as ponds and streams never received enough precipitation to recharge.

WALLOWA: Hot temperatures continued from last week through the first part of this week. Cooler temperatures on Thursday and Friday helped, but moisture is still needed. County court started disaster declaration process this week due to continuing drought. Rainfall for June is about 25 percent of normal and no appreciable amount for July. However, irrigation water seems to be in good supply.

WASCO: Hot weather continued all week. Wheat harvest progressed rapidly through the Columbia district area on towards Dufur, Wamic and Maupin. Winter wheat yields are running above normal to slightly below normal. Hot, dry weather in June pinched some grain kernels, reducing test weight and raising the protein level. Field stubble is very thick this year after harvest operations. It should be a good coverage to prevent erosion on fields through the winter on "no till" farming operations. Still picking late cherry varieties in some of the higher elevation orchards. A small quantity of very late cherries are yet to be harvested, but for the most part cherry harvest is complete. The fruit processing plants are busy brining cherries. Apricot and peach harvest was active. Harvesting of alfalfa hay continued throughout the week. Cattle and sheep were doing well on ranges and pastures, but water and grass forage is becoming short in many areas. Fire danger is high in most farming areas.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING JULY 27, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	57	77	64	4	100	27	0.00	-0.21	0	59.86	-5.09	92	177
Crescent City	49	63	57	-2	50	-8	0.01	-0.06	1	58.55	-5.64	91	123
Florence	40	76	61	1	78	7	0.00	-0.14	0	75.22	0.21	100	148
North Bend	48	68	60	-1	68	-2	0.00	-0.07	0	64.22	1.94	103	142
Tillamook	44	87	61	3	78	15	0.00	-0.28	0	83.53	-3.18	96	167
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	52	97	74	8	166	52	0.00	-0.09	0	33.28	-8.47	80	119
Eugene	45	96	70	3	144	18	0.00	-0.09	0	40.10	-8.11	83	143
Hillsboro	46	94	70	4	140	26	0.00	-0.10	0	36.06	-0.36	99	141
McMinnville	47	96	70	4	141	24	0.00	-0.07	0	39.99	-2.41	94	150
Portland	56	94	72	4	157	24	0.00	-0.13	0	33.57	-1.56	96	143
Salem	49	95	72	6	156	37	0.00	-0.07	0	39.40	1.06	103	145
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	60	103	80	9	215	60	0.00	-0.07	0	33.05	2.56	108	107
Medford	61	104	82	9	230	62	0.00	-0.07	0	22.49	4.19	123	103
Roseburg	53	99	76	8	186	51	0.00	-0.07	0	31.79	-0.24	99	124
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	53	98	75	9	178	59	0.00	-0.07	0	12.70	-0.57	96	101
Heppner	54	103	78	8	195	55	0.00	-0.07	0	11.29	-1.89	86	102
Hermiston	56	104	80	7	212	45	0.00	-0.06	0	7.74	-0.78	91	76
John Day	58	107	79	11	207	74	0.54	0.44	2	11.57	-0.73	94	100
Moro	53	101	77	9	188	57	0.00	-0.07	0	9.94	-0.67	94	78
Pendleton	57	106	79	6	206	38	0.00	-0.07	0	11.30	-0.15	99	94
The Dalles	55	101	79	12	206	86	0.00	-0.07	0	13.89	1.92	116	85
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	53	98	74	11	170	72	0.00	-0.07	0	7.19	-3.85	65	63
Burns	52	106	77	10	191	72	0.48	0.41	3	8.35	-0.88	90	84
Klamath Falls	54	100	75	6	173	41	0.63	0.56	3	11.59	-1.24	90	88
Lakeview	48	100	74	7	172	46	0.85	0.78	1	4.49	-10.55	30	45
Redmond	49	103	76	10	182	63	0.00	-0.07	0	7.21	-0.74	91	71
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	49	100	74	7	170	47	0.35	0.24	2	9.11	-0.74	92	90
Joseph	53	96	74	13	169	92	0.23	0.09	2	19.05	-4.57	81	137
La Grande	54	100	76	6	181	39	0.08	-0.03	1	11.31	-5.13	69	98
Union	54	104	76	9	183	60	0.07	-0.03	1	14.90	2.14	117	116
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	57	110	83	6	231	41	0.14	0.12	2	8.23	-0.97	89	75
Rome	53	108	81	8	215	54	0.08	0.01	2	6.66	-1.09	86	71

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Oregon Crop Weather 17-03
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